

No 11

232 Walnut

An Inaugural Essay

On

Dated March 1828

Indigestion,

For the degree of Doctor of Medicine

In the

University of Pennsylvania,

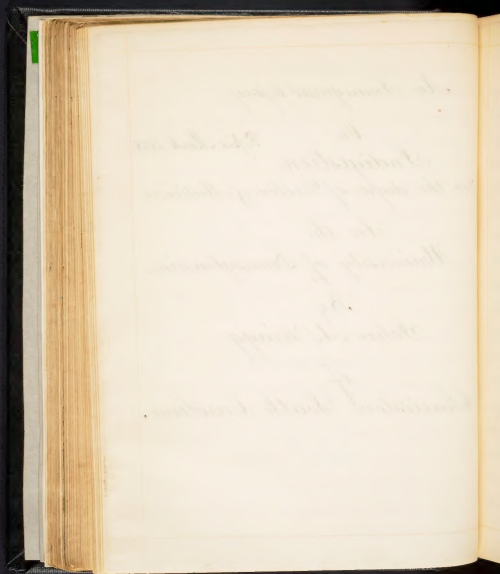
By

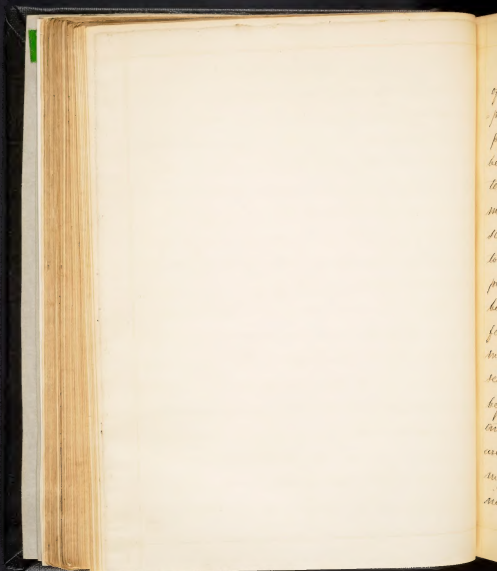
John A. Wragg

of

Charleston South Carolina.

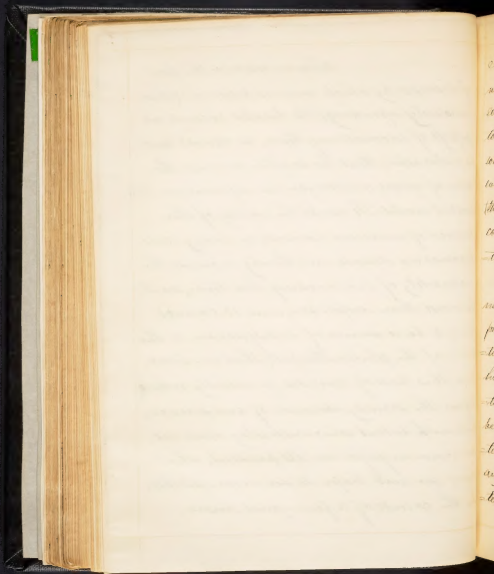
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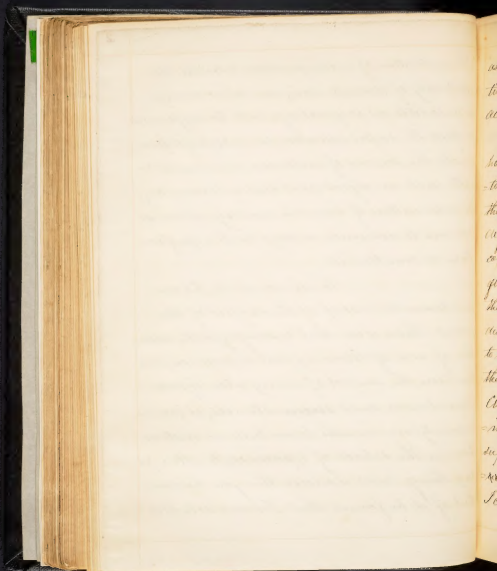
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When we consider the host
of diseases by which man is beset, and (com-
paratively speaking) the limited means we
possess of encountering them, we cannot but
be astonished, that he so often reaches the
term of years, allotted for his sojourn in this
mortal world. To doubt the ability of the
science of medicine, however, in many cases
to overcome disease, and thereby increase the
probability of his reaching that term, would
be worse than scepticism; and it cannot
fail, to be a source of satisfaction to the
mind of the philanthropist, that we have
seen this host of diseases, gradually recede
before the steady advance of our science;
and with talent and industry such as
are now engaged in its pursuit, what
may we not hope to see accomplished,
in the course of a few years more.



The institution of a comparison between the mortality of disease now, and what it was even so late as 50 years ago, will be sufficient to show the rapid advance towards perfection which the science of medicine has made & with such an object as it has in view, (viz) the alleviation of human misery, it must continue to advance so long as this perfection is unattained.

The disease which I have undertaken to treat of as the subject of the present Thesis, is one that has engaged the attention of men of learning and experience, and has been the subject of many able dissertations. Under such circumstances, it would be vanity in me who have had no instruction in the school of experience, to attempt any thing new. I shall therefore be content if it be found, that I have selected



as my authority, men, who have devoted their
time and talents to, and are universally
acknowledged, as Homards on the subject.

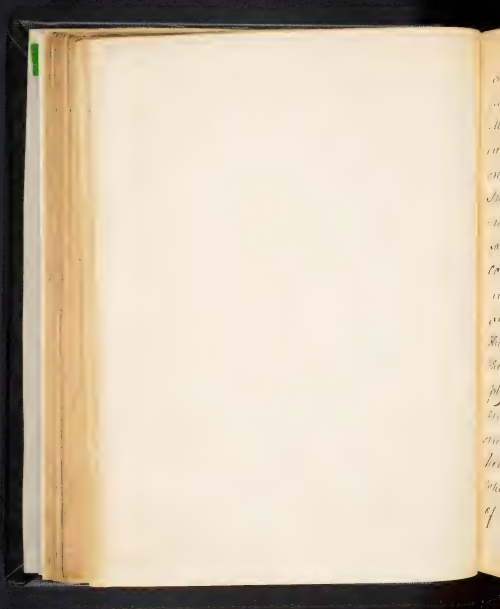
It is necessary before we can
have any correct views concerning Indiges-
-tion and the diseases consequent thereon,
that we should thoroughly understand the
digestive process. I propose therefore, in the
compilation of these pages, to commence by
giving, a cursory view of that process, and
then proceed to speak of Indigestion, as a
disease. Digestion in Physiology is defined
to be, that change the food undergoes, in
the Stomach, by which it is converted into
Chyme. Its immediate object, is the for-
-mation of Chyle; a matter destined to
supply the continual waste, in the system
- ~~and exists~~ in the animal economy.
I conceive it foreign to my purpose, to

enter a minute detail, of the anatomy of
the different parts concerned in the digestive
process. I shall therefore in treating of
digestion, merely advert, to the changes the
food undergoes while in the stomach.
The actions which by their union constitute
digestion, are several. The food is first received
into the mouth—there to be masticated,
and impregnated with saliva. From
thence it is propelled into the stomach,
through the oesophagus, by the act of de-
glutition; there to be converted into chyme,
by the action of the gastric juice. By
the muscular contractions of the stomach,
this mass is then forced into the duode-
num, where it receives the pancreatic
juice and bile, and is then fit to be
acted upon, by the lacteals. That the
juice secreted by the stomach is not

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only capable of receiving and taken into
that system to chyme, but also of acting
upon inanimate mineral matter with-
out the body, has been clearly proved, by
the experiments of Spallanzani and
others. These experiments seem to put it
beyond a doubt, that it is through the
agency of this, the gastric juice, that the
contents of the stomach are fitted, to pass
into the duodenum, there to undergo
other changes, previous to their being
taken up by the lacteals. And such is
the power of that fluid, that, according to
Mr. Hunter, it is only through the agency
of the vital principle, that the sto-
mach itself is enabled to resist its
influence—for no sooner is it deprived of
that principle, than it, like every in-
animate mineral matter, becomes in



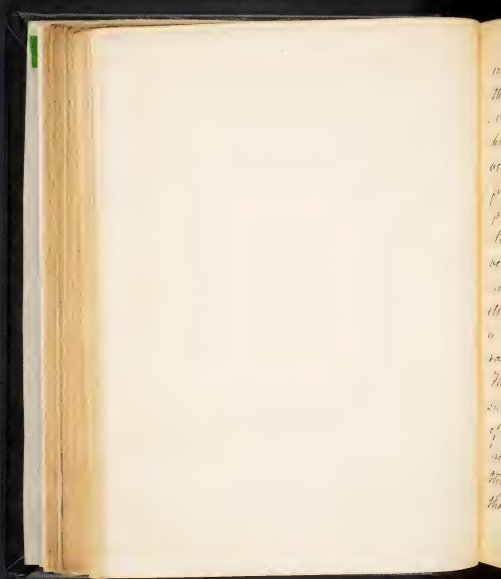
capable of withstanding its solvent power,
and is rendered by it that this is the case.
Sir Hunter had an opportunity of seeing
various dissections, not only in the inferior
orders of animals but in man himself.
In a man who was accidentally hanged im-
mediately after eating a full meal, he
found, that a portion of the stomach was
coagulated, while the food he had just taken
remained wholly uncoagulated. It appears
from experiments made by Wilson Philip,
that the stomach is only acted upon, where
there has been an unusually large sup-
ply of the gastric juice, as where an
uncommonly large meal has been
made, immediately before death—con-
sequently, in pathological cases of disease,
where that organ has been long emptied
of its contents, and there is only a



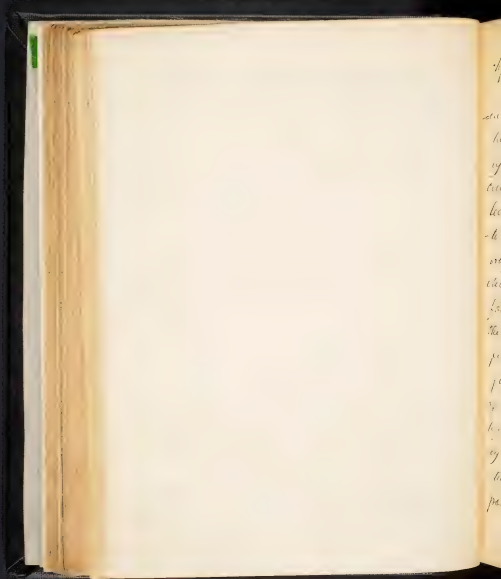
small portion of this fluid must that it
is an indigestible matter, is to be incorpo-
rated to the solution of 1000 to 5000000
quantity of the most digestible matter
if taken into it, we never find that
its structure is affected. The different por-
tions of the stomach, have been found by
Mr. Shallop, to possess the digestive power, in
different degrees of perfection and, exam-
ining the stomachs of numerous Pige-
ons killed, with the digestive process in
different stages of advancement, he found
that that portion of food, in contact
with the surface of the stomach, was
uniformly in a most advanced stage,
than that which was more remote
from it. Indeed this was so strikingly
manifest, that unless the animal
had fasted for a very long time, there



was a distinct line of demarcation be-
tween the two portions. It appears in ex-
periments made by the same gen-
tlemen, that this layer of food, in con-
tact with the surface of the stomach,
is at different stages of digestion, in differ-
ent portions of the surface. It is further
advanced in the middle of the great
curvature, than either in the long, or
or the small curvature. It is not how-
ever as yet proved, whether the food is more
significantly digested in the small cur-
vature, to be sent to the pylorus, with-
out passing through the large curva-
ture. The food in the pyloric portion
is found to be in a much more uni-
form state of digestion, than that in
cardiac. So much so indeed, that the
line of demarcation becomes very



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indistinct, and the mass we approach to
the orifice, the mass does this line dis-
appear, untill, finally we see nothing
but a homogeneous mass, fit to be receiv-
ed into the duodenum. It appears then
from what has been said, that in pro-
portion as this mass of food in con-
tact with the surface of the stomach
becomes digested, it is moved by the
muscular action of this organ along
its great curvature, then to undergo
a still farther process, and to make
room for the portion next in order.
Thus are the contents of the stomach
successively made to undergo the action
of the gastric juice, and are then pro-
pelled to the pylorus to be passed
through it into the duodenum, where
those farther changes which fit it for

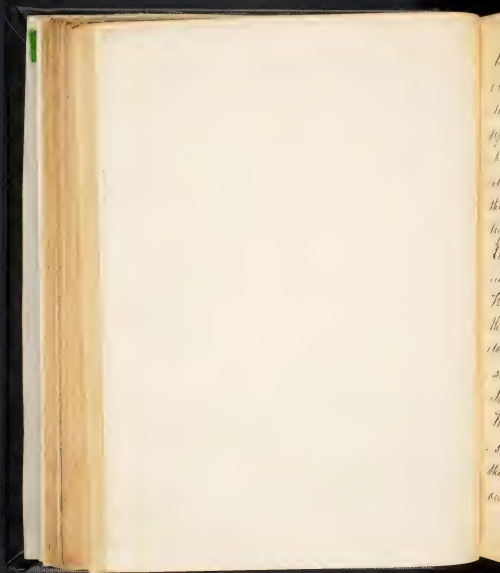


Simplification.

When we are thus prepared, to
see the different steps of the healthy diges-
tive process, we are the better prepared
to understand, the operation of those
causes which tend to disturb it, since this
leads us in the first place to enquire, in-
to the causes of Indigestion. It is evident
now what has been said of the process of
digestion, of the manner in which the
food is, by the muscular contractions of
the stomach, propelled through its dif-
ferent parts, and of the efficacy of the
gastric juice in the proper fulfilment
of this process, that any thing which tends
by its influence on the stomach, direct-
ly or indirectly to affect the healthy ac-
tion of either the nervous or muscular
power of that organ, must be ranked



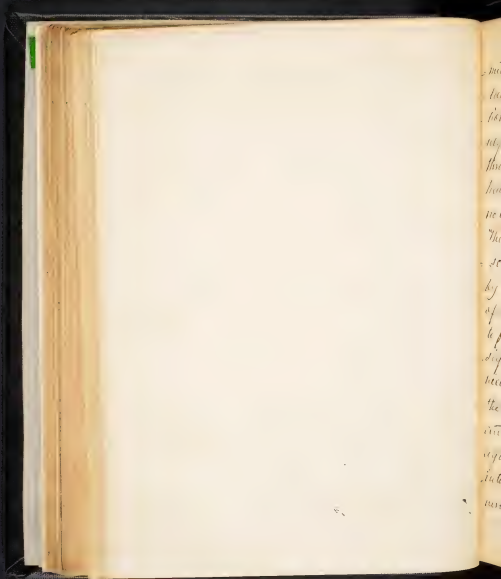
among the causes of endo-genesis. In the nervous system of the human body, we discover two general divisions. The one including those nerves which proceed directly from the brain and spinal marrow, and transmit sensation to the brain, and nervous influence to the voluntary muscles. The other, those which regulate the functions of the various organs, as those of the stomach, liver, heart &c, are called ganglionic, and proceed from the great sympathetic. That the nerves of this former class are incapable of conveying any other sensation than that allotted to each particular one, we may ascertain ourselves by observing, that the auditory nerve is incapable of conveying taste, the optic nerve, or the gustatory sight &c. In like manner, the nerves included in the second division are, in a state of health, incapable



ble of transmitting sensations, even it is, not
until they become diseased, that we are con-
scious of their existence, as a part of our
system. Johnson in his work on the mor-
bid Sensibility of the stomach even how-
ever says, "The stomach is as sensible to
the stimulus of food as the retina is to
light, but we feel nothing of the impression."
Let any one attentively observe when he
eats plain food, or snout takes plain drink.
He feels both of these in his mouth; but
the moment that either of them passes
down the oesophagus, he is quite uncon-
scious of its presence in the stomach.
It is so with all the internal organs.
The lungs feel the air, but we are uncon-
scious of its presence in the air cells;
the heart feels the stimulus of blood, with-
out our knowledge and so of all the other



organs, while the intellectual system is quite unconscious of all these sensibilities. But says Dr J. let us go a step farther swallow a teaspoonful of tincture of capsicum, or a wine glassful of brandy, when then we feel not only a burning sensation in the mouth and throat, but a certain degree of the same sensation in the stomach. Simple as this experiment may appear, and unimportant our conclusion thence resulting, it nevertheless unfolds one of the most fundamental views in pathology, and one of the most useful precepts in the art of preserving health. The moment we call forth a conscious sensation in the stomach, whether that be of a pleasurable or painful kind, we offer violence to that organ, however slight may be the degree. Let us view the matter closer. We take an abste-



21
minut meal of plain food, without any stimu-
lating drink. Is there any conscious sensa-
tion produced thereby in the stomach? I
say, no. We feel a pleasurable sensation
throughout the whole frame, especially if we
have fasted for some time previously, but
no distinct sensation in the stomach.

There is not—there ought not to be any con-
scious sensibility excited in this organ
by the presence of food or drink, in a state
of health; so true is this observation, that
to feel we have a stomach is no good
sign." It is evident according to the above
view of the subject, how slight may be
the causes which produce indigestion,
and how careful we should be to guard
against them. Only take any substance
into the stomach which will irritate its
mucous, and we excite its secretion, and



as Dr Johnson says, become conscious we
have a stomach, which consciousness ad=
-dresses us that disease exists in it.

Next writers agree in finding the cause of this
disease in two kinds. The first is much, which
act either by affecting the secretory power of
the stomach, or thereby preventing the pro=
per chemical change from taking place
in the food, or by debilitating its muscular
power, so that although the food as far as
it has been brought in contact with the
surface is properly digested, yet on account
of this muscular debility, the different
portions are not made successively to pass
through those parts which it is necessary
they should, in order to become fitted for
their ultimate destination, nor are they
regularly discharged through the pylor=
us; and the secret or proximate, which

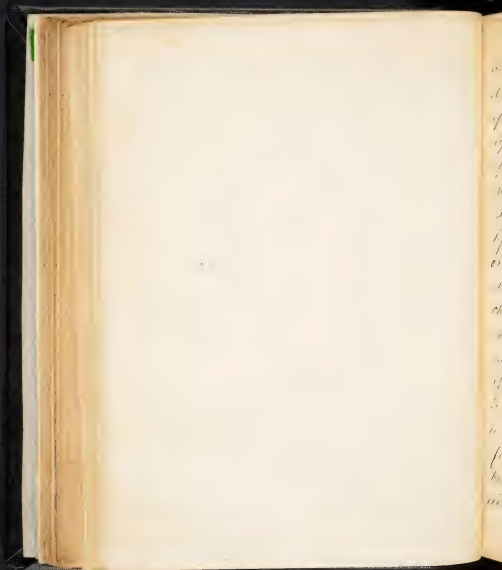


is directly induced by that want of tone in the
muscular fibres. & Caldwell in his notes on
the natural function of muscular tissue, that in
digestion cannot be regarded as the imme-
diate result of activity in the muscular
fibres of the stomach, in as much as di-
gestion is not a muscular process, but
it has been proved by the experiments of
W. Hunter, that when the muscular con-
tractures of the stomach were not thor-
oughly performed indigestion was the
invariable result. Indeed, that waste ap-
pears to be the cause, simply & alone, attending
to the phenomenon of indigestion. We are
even from the description of this, that it
is necessary for the digestion of the food
that it be brought in contact with the
mucous portions of the surface of the
stomach. For this to take place it is nec-



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-crutly necessary, that the muscular action
of that organ be relaxed. Hence I think we
are very inaccurate with Dr Cullen in re-
ducing muscular debility, as a prin-
cipal cause of indigestion, though it
is observed, it is certainly not the only one.
We next proceed to point out those causes
of indigestion, which by their action
on either of the above mentioned func-
tions of the stomach, tend to induce
that state of torpor we have said is
to be considered as the primary; even
which are to be considered as the re-
mote causes of the disease.

These according to Dr Cullen's division,
are of two sorts. First, those which act di-
rectly on immobility on the stomach,
such as 1st Tea, Coffee, Tobacco, Spirituous
liquors, Opium, Bitters & aromatics, &c.



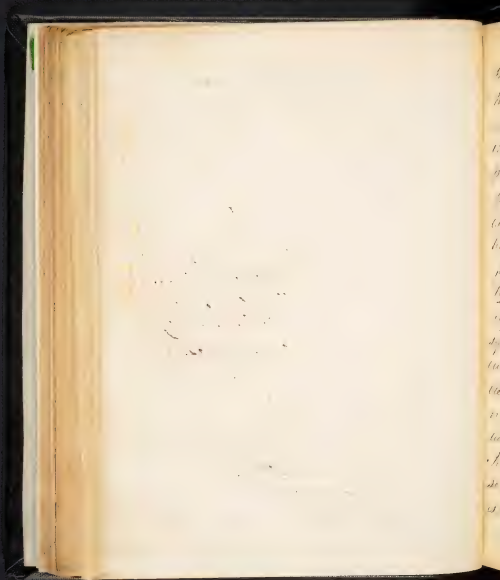
and interests, could keep me & protect
 myself, if some such or other security
 exists. This present subject necessarily
 extending the Harwich, fourth pre-
 sent building, on this subject, for the
 necessity as a public institution, Fifth con-
 stant relation of the subject, the second
 is, those which act upon the whole body
 or on particular parts of it and in con-
 sequence of such action, the Harwich is
 chiefly affected. Such as, the loss of in-
 solent in a satisfactory manner, to come, as
 in a man used to labor, but, instead
 of any kind of, but, study, or other
 application to business, continues, as
 a length of time. Fourth, a new defi-
 nition of the universal, while Sixth
 being, which, upon the same, in order
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also under the second division, some, indeed
by affect other parts than the stomach;
but as this organ is always joined either
primarily affected, or sympathizing with
the affected parts, our practice should be
directed towards it, particularly when we
know that upon the disease being con-
quered there, it generally becomes more
tractable in the other parts affected.
Having now enumerated those causes
which induce indigestion, either by af-
fecting the stomach primarily by their
action immediately on it, or secondari-
ly by producing disease in other parts with
which this organ sympathizes, we are
now prepared to speak of their effects,
or the symptoms induced by them, and
in doing this, I propose following the
divisions laid down by Mr Huxley in



but practice an indisposition; and I am tied
 to this because my admissions tend to a
 continuous difference in the practice, re-
 ceptory to be instituted for the cure of
 this disease. The disease of scurvy we are
 now treating, is more than one of the most
 complicated in the whole catalogue
 of practice. As it commencing with
 symptoms so differing in their nature,
 as not to attract the attention of even
 the patient himself, and frequently
 to elude the suspicion of the most ex-
 perience practitioner; and unless check
 by the appropriate remedies, we see it
 gradually but steadily advancing, until
 it has completely undermined the
 strength of the whole system, and we
 cannot as we have said, at a receding of
 the most complicated and difficult of



the disease, to be overcome by the skill of
the practitioner. It is a very long and
arduous attention in the treatment of
it that he is at length freed from his
gouty return to health. But as the com-
mon nature of this disease is to
increase at intervals, that it
lasts for the most part in some degree & pro-
pensity, we consequently observe habits
by the disease, we are inclined, there-
fore, rather in the whole system. The
symptoms of enlargement then are to be
considered under three stages, each of which
we must pay particular attention as we
must vary our treatment accordingly as
we come it progressively to the atten-
tion. I remember as I have before remarked
so slightly, that the disease is it
is not aware of any other disease



his usual good health, and it is not un-
till the 15th inst. that a considerable
debility is observed that it is induced to be
only for a while.

In the commencement of the disease
there is considerable flatulence & ston-
ach of the stomach. The patient is
soon rising from his bed, but when he
has gotten much up there he was for-
easily in the habit of doing, yet there
is great uneasiness in the epigastri-
c region, with the precursive act of disten-
tion. His stomach is acid, & he is
troubled ^{with} only eructations, which form the
sensation of scalding in the throat.
This state of things will continue for
some time, unless his dining & ex-
ercise attract his attention to them; he may even enjoy
tolerable health while under the influ-



ence of these symptoms, and may by proper
 attention to his diet, ruling according to the na-
 ture of such substances, as are more of digest-
 tion, restore the tone of his stomach with-
 out undergoing medical discipline. Gen-
 erally, however, either from the greater de-
 gree of obstinacy attending the case, or
 from a want of proper attention to the
 quantity and quality of food taken into
 the stomach, these symptoms are kept
 up, and in consequence the other por-
 tions of the alimentary canal are found
 to become implicated. The bowels become
 costive, the mouth sticky with a bitter-
 ish taste, and the tongue furred, particu-
 -larly in the morning. These symptoms
 may, in the generality of cases be tempo-
 rarily removed by some gentle laxa-
 tive. In consequence however of the



want of due attention to the quantity or quality of the ingesta they again soon attract now with some failure of strength, which induces the patient to turn his attention seriously to his state of health. He finds upon rising in the morning, that his sleep has been by no means a refreshing one, and that he is unwearyed ~~by the~~ ~~fatigue~~ of the day. The mind is soiled and the body now becomes indolent, and the patient often finds it impossible to fix his attention on any object. As may naturally be supposed, this diseased state of the stomach cannot long exist, without other organs being affected by its actions. Hence we find the functions of the liver disordered, and its secretion is either



showing of substance, as it is not
in the health of the liver. This state of
things is pointed out, by the appearance
of the urine discharged. They either con-
sist principally of uranicine bile,
or they are occasionally light colour-
-red denoting its almost total absence,
generally however they are pale
-reddish black, or sometimes almost
black. At sometimes, again where there
is a superabundant secretion from
the liver, that the bile in consequence
of the antiperistaltic motion of the
duodenum, is thrown into the sto-
-mach, and hence we have vom-
-it, vomit, and bilious vom-
-it. There can be no doubt, that the
difference in the face likewise makes
some change in the colour of the



yces. This I am a great deal of
 the opinion as to the matter, but the
 is a matter of certainty, but that the
 etc. Now this tendency seems to be much
 greater degree, I think is a very cer-
 tain; so do I think that the stomach
 made by the one, can ever be mistaken
 for the other. As the disease advances we find other
 sorts of symptoms, with the disor-
 dered state of the stomach, and
 hence, we see the appearance of the
 urine continually, changed from the
 healthy standard. Instead of being
 copious and pellucid, we find it scanty
 and high colored. It appears
 from observations made by Dr. Philip
 that, when there is a prevalence of
 acidity in the stomach, the urine is



much less active than in an opposite
state of this organ, and hence thus ac-
tively not passing off by the perspira-
tion, we find a considerable deposit
of it in the urine in the form of
lithic acid. That when there is a pre-
dominance of alkali in the ste-
nach the urine is unusually ac-
tive, the urine becomes turbid, and
deposits a white sediment which by
analysis, is found to be a phosphate.
Either of the above states of the urine
may be found in indigestion but
more frequently the former, in as
much as an acid state of the stom-
ach, is more usually met with in
this disease. There is a remarkable
sympathy existing, between the bow-
els and kidneys, which is well wor-



ing, of strict attention as it forms a
prominent feature in the treatment
of other diseases, than the one of which
we are now treating. It is, that we
generally find the urine scanty and
high coloured, when the bowels are
costive; and that when even the
most powerful diuretics fail in
producing the desired effect, the
simple administration of some
mild aperient medicine, will pro-
duce a copious flow upon the
change in appearance of the urine
discharges, we find the stomach be-
coming considerably more disor-
dered. The smallest quantity of
food, excites an immediate sen-
sation of distention. The bowels
are very irregular, being sometimes

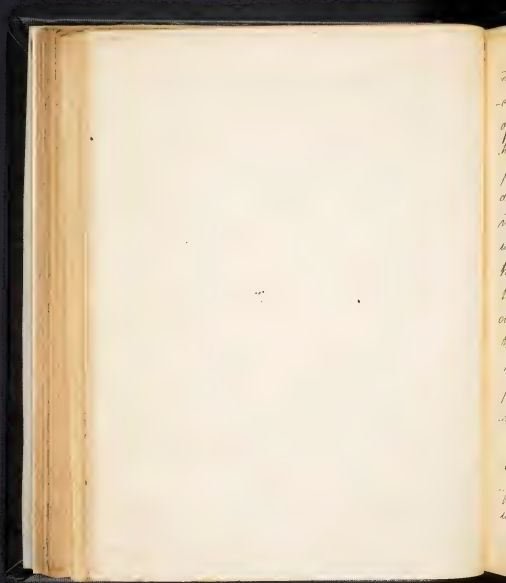


46
immediately loose, and at other
times requiring cathartic medicines
to move them. The matter discharges at
first often undigested, mixed with mucus and some-
times containing blood, and we find that
cathartic medicines do not instantly effect
a discharge as they formerly did. As the
disease proceeds, owing to the morbid contents
of the alimentary canal, the patient com-
plains of increasing weakness, pains
in the stomach and lower part of the bow-
els, and a sensation of burning in the
stomach and bowels which it is difficult
to get rid of. As it progresses, we find other
parts sympathizing with the prime vice
These sympathetical affections, must of course
be different in different cases. The digestive
organs now become unequal to the
 requisite supply of nourishment, and hence



we find the body gradually becomes weak
in marinating, and the patient is rendered
unable to attend to his daily occupations.
No Philib insists strenuously on the differ-
=ence (and it appears to be by no means ex-
=cept one) between debility and consumption
of strength. In the former, the vigor of the
vital powers is impaired, in the latter
their action is only impeded. It is evi-
dent that one of these states of the sys-
tem mistaken for the other would lead
to serious mischiefs in practice. Howing.
now enumerated the most striking symp-
=toms incident to the first stage of in-
=gestion, we proceed according according
to the division twice above, to speak of
the second.

The most prominent of these is a per-
=manent pain on pressure, just below



the end of the stomach. It is extremely circumscribed, and never exists for any length of time without the pulse becoming hard, and it is this hardness of the pulse, that admonishes us to change our mode of treatment. There are others incident to this stage of the disease which would induce us to believe, that the simple irritation of the first stage, had passed on to inflammation. Such as an increase of thirst, partial success in the morning, inability of motion, &c, but the principal indication is the hard pulse, and it is to this we are to accede, moderate, the change in our treatment.

The symptoms of the third stage of indigestion, are such as arise from organic affections. To enter into a detail of these would lead us far beyond the limits we



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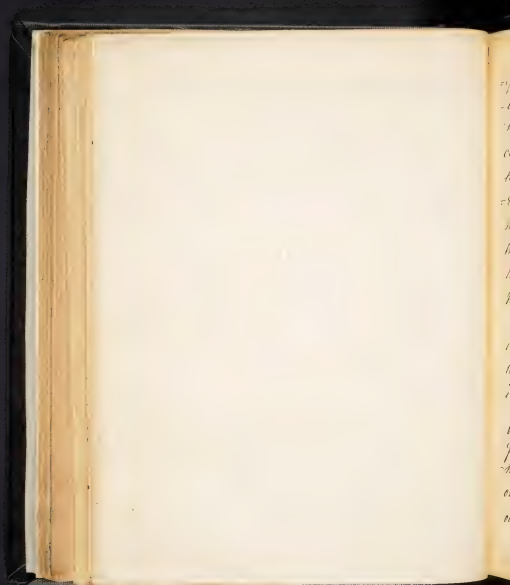
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are less necessarily confined to, and likewise
 involve us in the consideration of a large
 portion of the diseases to which the human
 race is subject. suffice it here to say, that
 these chronic affections though at first
 only symptoms of the extensive scope of in-
 disposition, at length suffice to prop up
 an effluence to, become themselves diseases,
 the probable termination of which is
 frequently & terminally tedious. This part has
 been happily compared to the support
 which the branches of a tree receive from
 the trunk. "but clasp a tree before its
 roots have penetrated deeply into the
 soil, and you destroy the branches also
 but let their roots take a firm and ex-
 tensive hold, and see them shooting
 out scions which in their turn strike
 their racivels into the ground, and be-

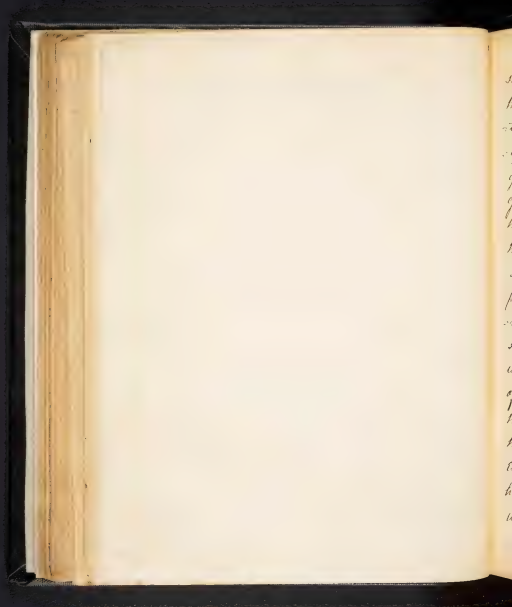


quire for themselves an independent virtue
-ity." The knowledge of this fact should therefore
thoroughly impress us with the necessity of
carefully watching those parts which are
likely in the course of the original dis-
-ease to become sympathetically affected,
that we may not mean to treat out a disease,
that which by proper attention, might
have been prevented from becoming any
thing more than a symptom.

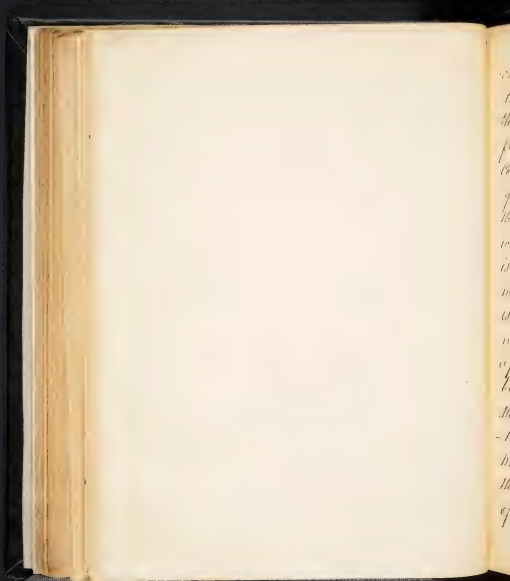
In the treatment of this
disease as in all others, we must be guided
wholly by the symptoms; and hence we have
it divided into that appropriate to the
first, second, and third stages. The pro-
-gress of the disease from one stage to ano-
-ther should be carefully watched, as it is
only by this attention that we can inform
ourselves, we are not treating one stage



of it with those remedies, which are peculiarly
 adapted to another. When called to a
 patient labouring under the most
 symptoms of indigestion (which have
 been enumerated) we may frequently, by
 proper attention to diet and exercise, restore
 him to health without subjecting him to
 a strict medical discipline. The diet should
 be such, as will neither offend the stomach
 by its quantity or quality. It should be
 eaten slowly so that it may be thoroughly
 masticated and impregnated with
 saliva; since that a greater quantity
 than the gastric juice then in the stomach
 can act upon, may not be taken. The due
 performance of the process of mastication,
 is of the utmost consequence to the proper
 digestion of the food. A weak stomach
 will find it difficult to digest even so



swallow a portion of food, provided it is not
 thoroughly masticated. Particular at-
 tention should also be paid, to the quan-
 tity of food taken. The sensation of hun-
 ger is created by the impression of the
 gastric juice on the stomach, hence
 this sensation can never be felt except
 there be a quantity of that fluid pre-
 sent. This sensation then should ever be
 particularly attended to by the dyspep-
 sic, since whatever is taken into the
 stomach during its absence, (or which
 is the same thing during the absence
 of the gastric juice) must remain
 there an undigested mass, irritating
 that organ and giving rise to all those
 evils we have already enumerated. It
 has been remarked, that "the stomach
 when unemployed is always doing mis-



chief, "and from this observation we ob-
tain a rule in regard to the eating of
the dyspeptic thing that he should eat
frequently and a little at a time.

Concerning the articles that can assist of di-
gestion it may be sufficient to observe,
that all game comes under that head that
whole poultry and every of vegetables, that put
is offensive to the stomach, and that the
most simple manner in which the food
is prepared is the state in which it is
most readily acted upon by the digestion
expected. Generally speaking milk will
be found the most appropriate diet for
the dyspeptic individual, and to be pre-
ferred it must be exclusively used.
When milk disagrees with the stomach,
the best substitute is chocolate rendered
of its oily parts by boiling. Brink is to



21

be moderately taken at meals, neither
abstaining totally from it, as has been
recommended, nor yet indulging in it
to excess. Particular attention must be
paid by the dyspeptic to the exercise,
both of his mind and body. We have
seen from the experiments of Mr. Philip,
that in the course of the healthy diges-
tive process, no excitement takes place
between the food recently taken into the
stomach, and that which has already
been acted upon by the gastric juices;
hence a rule, that exercise im-
mediately after eating is injurious,
in as much as it occasions this mixture
to take place. Riding on horseback is
the exercise which is perhaps upon the
whole best suited, to a dyspeptic pa-
tient. It should however not be taken



for one hour or two after eating, and should
never be carried so far as to fatigue. The
same rule holds as regards the exercise
of the mind (viz) it should never be fa-
tigated. Night watching such as is called
to be done is useful, but any thing
further is injurious.

The first indication in
the medical treatment of this disease
is the relief of the stomach and bowels,
which are almost uniformly constipated.
To remedy the stomach our chief
specific is to be given, provided there
is no phlogosis of that organ. Dr. Pott
thinks the repetition of emetics is injuri-
ous as it creates a morbid excitement,
and inverts the natural action of the
stomach and intestines. But to em-
eticate once, to give some gentle op-

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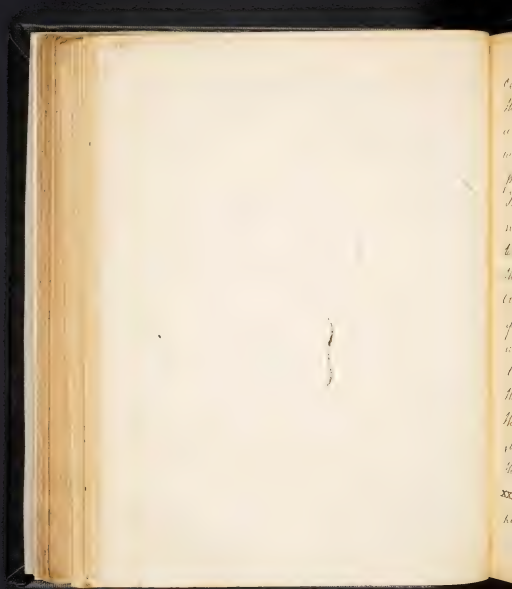
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=sient, avoiding in this stage of the disease
the neutral salts. As a laxative I recommend
in the following formula as recommended
by Dr. Cheppin, has been found by him
very useful.

Tart. pot. can be taken { ʒi
made of that & 3 } Common yrup ʒi
given as a clark } bit of tart. acid ʒi
When there is epigastric uneasiness &c. =
commends the following,

Acid. glyssul of { M. Anna ʒiv
This is to be given 2 } Gentian ʒi
or 3 times a day. } Boiling water. Oj

As Philip thinks that where the gastric une-
asiness is in procuring the desired re-
sult should resort to gentle stimulents,
with a view of correcting the unhealthy
secretions. This practice however must
obviously prove injurious, when phlogoses



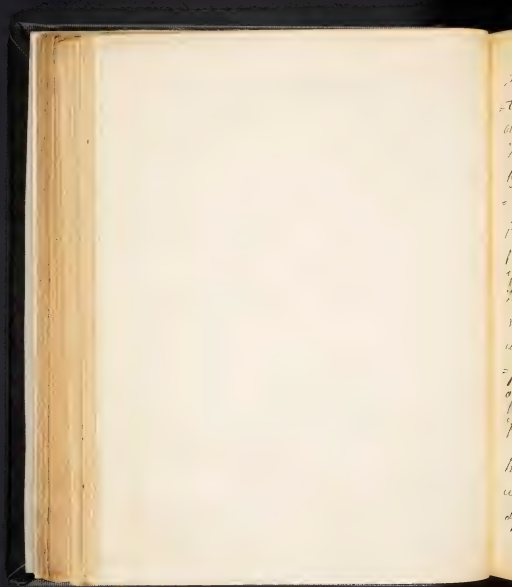
of the stomach is cold. Short or acid stools of
the stomach is to be corrected by
absorbent medicines, as magnesia, lime
water, &c. particularly the last, used by
pouring boiling water on bicarb. vessels.
The stomach being prepared by the above
medicines remedies we are next to resort
to tonics, which are obtained either from
the vegetable or mineral kingdoms.
Among the vegetable are the, rhus, casia,
gentiana, columbo, Cinnamon &c. The
mineral tonics rank very high, particu-
larly the preparations of Iron, one of
these Dr. Chapman gives the preference to
the Sulphur Ferri. It may be given in the
following formulae.

This is to be administered 3 or 4 times. - - - 31
xxx pills are to be taken by each patient 95
In morning, noon, & night. —



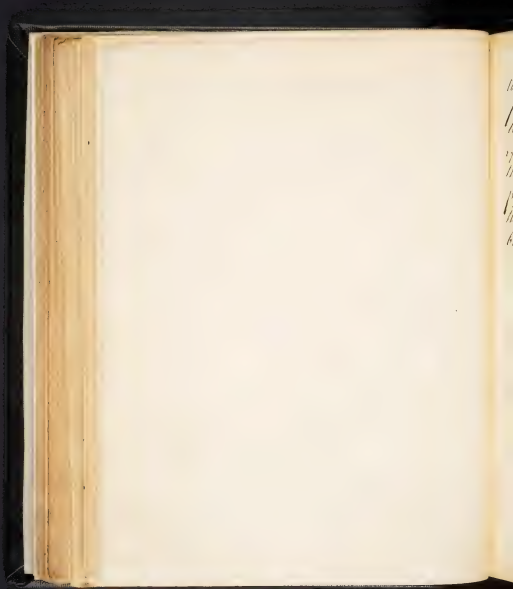
There are many other tonics recommen-
 -ded to give tone to the stomach during
 the first stage of indigestion. I conceive
 however that I have said enough
 concerning them, and shall only, for
 this remark in respect to tonics in
 general, that their use is to be abstain
 -ed from, where any of the symptoms
 of phlogosis of the stomach exist.

I now proceed to speak of the treatment
 appropriate to the second stage of the
 disease, and which may be done in
 very few words. It is evident from
 what has been said of the symptoms
 in this stage, that the stimulating plan
 adopted in the close of the last stage,
 would prove highly injurious. We
 must observe however that although
 this plan would prove hurtful, yet the



42
strength of the patient must be supported, and hence the most powerful
antiphlogistics are seldom called for.
This however is to be determined solely
by the urgency of the symptoms, re-
membering that the strength of the
patient will not rise, as easily, or in-
frequently, as it can in the early stages
of the disease. Leeching and blistering
the epigastrium, frequently, not only
relieves the pain, but counteracts
all the other symptoms. Small and re-
peated doses of mercury in the form
of the blue pill, to correct the action
of the liver, are useful in this stage.

The treatment of the
third stage of this disease wants
as I observe when speaking of the
symptoms, but we rule a facto per



too extensive for the necessary limits of this production. I shall therefore close it by insisting strenuously on the absolute necessity that exists in our practice of watching carefully these organic symptoms that we may apply our means of cure before they become themselves diseases which may eventually baffle our utmost skill.

Finis—

